(b) if so, the total fund allotted and utilized during the last three years, year wise and State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of the projects implemented/proposed to be implemented for harvesting water in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (d) No specific funds were allotted to Panchayati Raj Institutions for preservation and rejuvenation of tanks, construction of barrages, check dams, nala bunds etc. for harvesting water. However, these activities are covered under Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) and are also envisaged under the three Watershed Development Programme (DDP) and the Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) being implemented by the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development. The projects under these Programmes are implemented by the Watershed Committees/ Watershed Associations under the guidance of a Technical Team of the Project Implementation Agencies.

Further, a one-time programme has also been launched during 2002-2003 for rejuvenation of at least one existing village pond/tank by pooling funds released for Watershed Development Programme (DDP), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), including Employment Assurance Scheme (Watershed Projects), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana (Drinking Water Supply Component). For this programme, the Gram Panchayat is the nodal agency for implementation.

Decline in availability of drinking water

1585. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been a continuous decline in the availability of drinking water in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the districts, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps that are being taken to implement a water conservation scheme of National level; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take or have taken to bring a comprehensive improvement for water supply in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) During the current year 2002, 16 districts in Chhattisgarh, 19 districts in Karnataka and 39 districts in Uttar Pradesh have been declared as drought affected so far. There are areas affected due to drought situation in States of Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand also. The reports from the States are awaited.

(c) As per the existing guidelines, schemes or projects can be taken up under Sub-Mission on Sustainability under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), including water conservation, ground water recharge and rainwater harvesting. State Government have been delegated powers to utilise up to 5% of ARWSP fund for shcemes/project relating to sustainability of source/projects on water conservation, water harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of drinking water sources in respect of DDP/DPAP areas, over-exploited, dark/grey blocks and other water stressed/drought affected areas. The Government of India has issued detailed guidelines for implementation of Schemes and Projects on Sustainability under ARWSP. Appeals have also been made to Hon'ble Members of Parliament to take up projects to augment the drinking water supply/groundwater recharge like rainwater harvesting, etc., out of MPs Local Area Development Fund.

(d) As per information received from Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the following short-term and long-term measures have been taken to bring comprehensive improvement for water supply in Delhi by Delhi Jal Board:

Short-term measures:

(1) 455 tubewells were bored and commissioned;

(2) 7.19 kms length of old/corroded/ rusted lines have been replaced to improve water pressures;

(3) 506 kms new water lines have been laid for improvement of water to cover new areas;

(4) 10 major underground reservoirs and booster pumping station at various places have been commissioned;

(5) During the last three years, piped water supply has been provided in 171 unauthorised colonies, 12 additional unauthorised/ regularised colonies and about 1.15 lakhs water connections have been provided;

(6) About 1000 tankers/trucks have been deployed to provide drinking water in water deficient areas;

Long-term measures:

(1) A 140 MGD water treatment plant is being set up in trans-Yamuna area, Sonia Vihar employing state-of-art technology. Raw water for this plant has been drawn from storage of Tehri Dam. Work on the plant has already commenced and is targeted to be completed by December, 2003.

(2) A 40 MGD water treatment plant has been set up at Nangloi, which is presently functioning to about half its capacity owing to raw water constraints.

(3) Construction of additional water treatment plants from the savings of seepage losses has also been planned.

(4) Recycling of waste water generated at the existing plants is also planned.

(5) Construction of additional 100 tube wells in flood plains of Burari and Palla are also planned, out of which 23 tube wells have been commissioned and work on 27 is in progress.